**Amendments to the Claims**:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 12, wherein

the yoke layer extends from a first position recessed from the recording-medium-facing surface to a second position at the rear of the first position,

the main pole extends from the recording-medium-facing surface to the second position, and has a smaller width than the width of the yoke layer.

3. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 12, wherein

the yoke layer extends from a first position recessed from the recording-medium-facing surface to a second position at the rear of the first position, and

the main pole extends from the recording-medium-facing surface to a third position between the first position and the second position.

4. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 3, wherein

the yoke layer includes:

a connecting portion having a part connected to the main pole, and

a yoke widening portion having a larger width than the width of the connecting portion,

wherein the connecting portion is closer to the recording-medium-facing surface relative to the yoke widening portion.

5. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 4, further comprising:

a thin film coil generating magnetic flux, and having a winding structure wound around an end portion of the yoke layer on a side farther from the recording-medium-facing surface,

wherein when an area of an end surface of the end portion in the yoke layer is SE, and an area of a sectional surface of the connecting portion parallel to the recording-medium-facing surface is SD, an area ratio SD/SE is within a range of $0.008 \leqq SD/SE \leqq 0.3$.

6. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 12, wherein

a recess is disposed in a portion of the yoke layer away from where the yoke layer is connected to the main pole.

7. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 12, wherein

the main pole includes:

a pole uniform width portion having a uniform width determining a recording track width of the recording medium, and

a pole widening portion having a larger width than the width of the pole uniform width portion,

wherein the pole uniform width portion is closer to the recording-medium-facing surface relative to the pole widening portion.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a thin film magnetic head, comprising the steps of:

forming a yoke layer so as to be recessed from a recording-medium-facing surface facing a recording medium moving in a predetermined direction of medium movement; and

forming a main pole on a medium-outgoing side of the yoke layer in the direction of medium movement so as to be exposed to the recording-medium-facing surface,

wherein a portion of the main pole is connected to a portion of the yoke layer.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a thin film magnetic head according to claim 10,

wherein the step of forming the yoke layer includes the steps of:

forming a precursor yoke layer pattern;

forming a precursor pole layer so that the precursor yoke layer pattern is covered with the precursor pole layer; and

forming the main pole through etching the precursor pole layer to be patterned, and forming the yoke layer through continuously etching at least a part of a portion of the precursor yoke layer pattern except for a portion to be connected to the main pole so as to be recessed.

12. (Withdrawn) A perpendicular magnetic recording head, comprising:

a yoke layer disposed so as to be recessed from a recording-medium-facing surface facing a recording medium moving in a predetermined direction of medium movement;

a main pole disposed on a medium-outgoing side of the yoke layer in the direction of medium movement so as to be exposed to the recording-medium-facing surface;

an auxiliary pole layer disposed on the medium-outgoing side of the main pole so as to be recessed from the recording-medium-facing surface and spaced from the yoke layer; and

a non-magnetic layer disposed between the main pole and the auxiliary pole layer in a region where the main pole and the auxiliary pole layer face each other,

wherein a portion of the main pole is connected to a portion of the yoke layer.

13. (Withdrawn) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 12, wherein

the auxiliary pole layer includes:

an auxiliary pole uniform width portion having a uniform width; and

an auxiliary pole widening portion having a larger width than the width of the auxiliary pole uniform width portion,

wherein the auxiliary pole uniform width portion is closer, relative to the auxiliary pole widening portion, to a position connecting the pole uniform width portion and the pole widening portion.

14. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording head, comprising:

a return yoke layer disposed so as to be exposed to a recording-medium-facing surface facing a recording medium;

a yoke layer disposed between the return yoke layer and a main pole so as to be recessed ~~from a~~ from the recording-medium-facing surface ~~facing a recording medium moving in a predetermined direction of medium movement~~; and

~~a~~ the main pole disposed ~~on a medium outgoing side of the yoke layer in the direction of medium movement~~ so as to be exposed to the recording-medium-facing surface,

wherein the main pole includes a pole uniform width portion having a uniform width determining a recording track width of the recording medium and a pole widening portion having a larger width than the width of the pole uniform width portion, and where the pole uniform width portion is closer to the recording-medium-facing surface relative to the pole widening portion,

the yoke layer includes a connecting portion having a uniform width larger than the width of the pole uniform width portion and smaller than the width of the pole widening portion and a yoke widening portion having a width larger than the width of the connecting portion, and where the connecting portion is closer to the recording-medium-facing surface relative to the yoke widening portion, and

a portion of the pole widening portion in the main pole is connected to at least a portion of the connecting portion in the yoke layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording head according to claim 14, wherein

a recess is disposed in a portion of the yoke layer away from where the yoke layer is connected to the main pole.